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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1071
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USMISSION NATO

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USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, ETRD, EIND, EGEN
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR AIRCRAFT COOPERATION

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1812

1. THE EC COMMISSION IS PLANNING A 5-YEAR 33.7 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (MUA) PROGRAM IN THE AERONAUTICAL FIELD FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INVOLVING HELICOPTERS AND AIRFRAMES FOR AIRPLANES. THIS PROPOSAL, FORWARDED TO THE COUNCIL AS A DRAFT, IS BASED ON ELEMENTS OF THE ILL-FATED ACTION PROGRAM OF 1975 (REFTEL) WHICH NEVER RECEIVED MEMBER STATE SUPPORT. THE LIMITED SCOPE OF THE COMMISSION'S PRESENT PROPOSAL IS THE RESULT OF A SEARCH FOR PROPITIOUS EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECTS. HELICOPTERS AND AIRFRAMES WERE DESIGNATED PRIORITY AREAS BECAUSE MAJOR EUROPEAN COMPANIES, INCLUDING
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DASSAULT AND BRITISH AEROSPACE, ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS.

2. THE PROPOSALS FOR THE HELICOPTER SECTOR ARE INTENDED TO WIDEN THE SCOPE FOR THE CIVILIAN USE OF HELICOPTERS BY IMPROVEMENTS IN FUEL ECONOMY, FLIGHT

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INSTRUMENT CAPABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS (NOISE AND VIBRATION), AND THE AERODYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF ROTOR BLADES AND AIRFRAME. THE AIRFRAME PROPOSALS ARE AIMED AT INCREASING STRUCTURAL LIFE AND REDUCING MAINTENANCE COSTS THROUGH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF FATIGUE AND FRACTURE MECHANICS.

3. THE TWO PROGRAMS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT LARGELY BY MEMBER STATE EXPERTS BUT COORDINATED BY THE COMMISSION. TOTAL FUNDING OF 36.7 MUA WOULD BE SPLIT AS FOLLOWS: 14.7 MUA FOR HELICOPTERS AND 22 MUA FOR AIRFRAMES. EIGHT MUA ARE ALREADY EARMARKED FOR SUCH PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY'S 1977 BUDGET BUT THE BALANCE WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND IN FUTURE BUDGETS OR THROUGH INDUSTRIAL FINANCING. (THE COMMISSION HOPES THAT UP TO 20 PERCENT OF THE PROGRAM WILL EVENTUALLY BE FINANCED BY INDUSTRY.)

4. MEMBER STATE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORS WILL CONSIDER THE PROJECTS IN THE AUTUMN AND, IF RAPID APPROVAL IS FORTHCOMING AT THAT LEVEL, THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO MOVE QUICKLY WITH OTHER PROPOSALS CONCERNING ENGINES, AIRCRAFT EQUIPMENT AND AERONAUTICAL RESEARCH STRUCTURE. COMMISSION OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, RATE ODDS OF MEMBER STATE ACCEPTANCE OF THE HELICOPTER AND AIRFRAME AT NO BETTER THAN 50/50.

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5. MISSION HAS BEEN PROMISED COPY OF COMMISSION DRAFT PROPOSAL AND WILL POUCH IT TO DEPARTMENT. HINTON

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Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: AIRCRAFT, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, HELICOPTERS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
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Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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